

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

INFORMATION FOR RELEASE

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TAX ADVOCATES OFFER TIPS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES SEEKING TAX STIMULUS REBATE CHECKS

Legal Aid Society Releases Free Fact Sheet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. March 25, 2008 – The Legal Aid Society has announced today that it has issued a free fact sheet for low-income people who may be eligible for tax stimulus rebate payments. The fact sheet is available by calling the Legal Aid Society, toll-free, at 1-800-238-1443. It is also available from Legal Aid’s web site, www.las.org.

Lawyers with Legal Aid’s Tennessee Taxpayer Project prepared the brochure. The Internal Revenue Service funds the Project to help low-wage worker on tax disputes and teach them about their rights and responsibilities as taxpayers.

“Many families with income are not required to file a tax return,” explained Tennessee Taxpayer Project Attorney Mary Gillum. “We are concerned that many non-filers, without earned income, do not know that they may still qualify for their stimulus rebate check.

In February, Congress passed an economic stimulus plan that includes tax rebate checks for more than 130 million American families. To ensure that low-income families in Tennessee receive the benefits of the plan, the Legal Aid Society has created a fact sheet that answers common questions about the program

To be eligible for a stimulus rebate check, a person must have a valid Social Security number and receive qualified income of \$3,000 or more in 2007. In addition to employment wages, a person can have income from self-employment, Social Security, disability payments, and some railroad retirement and veteran’s payments and still qualify for the stimulus check.

“The plan is basically simple but some eligibility issues are complicated,” Ms. Gillum said. “We think this Fact Sheet will be helpful because it was written by tax lawyers who know the rules and community education writers who make the rules understandable.”

Some parts of the plan that people may not be aware of include:

-- If you have already filed, but did not include Social Security, disability or other income, you can file a Form 1040X to change their return and still get the refund.”

-- You have until December 31, 2008, to file for the 2007 stimulus rebate.

-- The stimulus rebate will not count as income for benefits such as Social Security, food stamps, Section 8 housing or many other government programs.

People who had qualifying income of more than \$3,000 but paid no taxes will receive \$300. Those with income of more than \$3,000 who paid taxes will receive up to \$600. Married couples receive double the amount. Those who have children under 17 will receive an additional \$300 per child.

The Legal Aid Society gives free legal aid to people who have nowhere else to turn. It serves 48 counties in Middle Tennessee.

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